



The Eagle's View

City News June 30, 2021 Eagle Mountain City Government

In this issue

- **Mayor Westmoreland - Water will always be a top priority**
- **Know the code - Code enforcement**
- **Wildlife - Harmful algal blooms**
- **New business development**
- **Emergency prep - Wildfire season has arrived**
- **City jobs available**
- **Ballots will be mailed**
- **Petroglyphs - Preservation undertaken in Eagle Mountain**
- **Upcoming events**

Water will always be a top priority



1 - Mayor Tom Westmoreland

Unless you have been in Eagle Mountain since its beginnings, you might be surprised to learn that the community was created because of water.

This might seem ironic for a city with no rivers or lakes, but this important part of our history is a good place to start when talking about water in the midst of a drought, and the future of water in our city.

Being the second driest state in the union, Utah manages water a bit differently than other states. In Utah, an entity or landowner must purchase the right to have water. This is commonly referred to as paper water. Once water rights are purchased, then one is free to purchase the actual water.

In order to purchase that water, it must physically be available -- this is where it can get complicated depending on the water source.

For a homeowner, that entire process was handled before your home was ever built. For example, a residential developer must own water rights before they can build homes. As part of managing the actual water, those rights are conveyed over to the City and matched with a known, existing water source. In this way, water can be managed and allocated. All of this management is part of an effort to ensure water is set aside just for you.

In Eagle Mountain, we have two sources of water. The first source is the aquifer that runs underground. That same aquifer was the reason for creating Eagle Mountain. The second source comes from the water district through contracts with the City. These redundant sources, as they're called, give Eagle

Mountain options in water management, and provide additional water coming into the city as we grow.

As mayor, I have made water a first priority. With that goal, we do all we can as a City to make sure that water will flow to homes and businesses under any circumstance.

This is a tall order but one that is absolutely necessary. In order to fulfill this goal and manage water responsibly, we must invest in both water rights and water infrastructure. As with most things, this means acquiring funding to pay for it.

I'll come back to funding in just a moment. Before we get to that, I want to describe some of the challenges in water management and planning.

When we buy water from the water district, we are committed to paying for the water whether we use it or not. If we buy too much, it becomes more expensive, overall. If we buy too little, we could come up short. No one wants that to happen, yet there is no crystal ball to tell us just how much we will need. So, we buy more than we need and manage it the best we can.

As I mentioned before, once we have the water, it must be managed and delivered to your home. This requires further investments in things like waterpipes, pumps, valves, holding tanks and backup generators -- the cost of which adds up to millions of dollars very quickly.

This is where economic development comes into the picture. With big companies like Facebook and Tyson coming to Eagle Mountain, I have often been asked about their water usage. It is understandable to question the wisdom of a desert city partnering with a big company that uses significant amounts of water. One concern might be whether the big company could use all the water, leaving residents without resources for their homes. As I described earlier, no one can take another person's water.

Once the city has set aside enough water for our residents' needs, we must come back to the question of how to pay for the pipes, pumps, etc., to get water to our homes. As a result, these big companies become our partners in water, not our competitors.

These companies invest millions of dollars in the water delivery system because they also need a robust water system they can count on. We become the beneficiaries of their investment.

Of course, the details are more complicated, but I hope this gives everyone a better understanding of our water goals and how the various pieces fit together to reach those goals.

We are a city in the desert born of water, and with a constant focus on water. Water will always be a concern and will always be a challenge. But we as a City work to make it better all the time so that when you turn on your faucet or shower it's there for your family.

Mayor Tom Westmoreland

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Know the code - Code enforcement



Will I receive a response back after I submit a complaint?

No. However, Neighborhood Improvement may contact you to obtain additional information.

I just received a Violation Notice and I am not sure what to do.

Correct the violation by the compliance date given on the notice. You should contact Neighborhood Improvement to let us know that correction has been made so an inspection can be done to avoid additional fines.

What is the difference between Neighborhood Improvement and a Homeowner's Association?

Code Enforcement agencies are a function of many governments and are in place to ensure compliance with Ordinance requirements and adopted regulations related to land use, zoning, sign standards, public nuisance, and health and housing codes.

In Eagle Mountain City, the primary objective is to achieve compliance through education about City Codes and requirements.

Most codes and ordinances apply to every property within the City. Ultimately, the purpose is to ensure that all neighborhoods and properties are maintained protecting property values, and to promote the health, safety and welfare of all residents.

Homeowner's Associations are private organizations that are paid by designated neighborhoods to oversee their maintenance standards, as established by written Codes, Covenants and Restrictions (CC&Rs) for the properties within a specific neighborhood.

The neighborhoods were designed to be managed by a Homeowner's Association. Homeowner's Associations have the right to enforce and assess fines to members in accordance with the Homeowners Association's Codes, Covenants and Restrictions.

Typically, as part of the purchase process, each property owner within these designated neighborhoods signs documents agreeing to the standards that have been established and will abide by any penalties assessed.

Homeowner's Associations may establish maintenance standards that require a higher standard of upkeep than the City Codes. Neighborhoods that are within Homeowner Association areas are still required to abide by City Code requirements.

Neighborhood Improvement Officers enforce City Ordinances and Code Standards at all properties within Eagle Mountain City, including those properties within a Homeowner's Association area.

However, HOA's enforce maintenance standards within their designated neighborhood. HOA standards can be similar to City Code requirements or more restrictive. If an HOA requirement or standard is less restrictive than the City Code, the City's Code requirement remains and is required to be met.

For a list of HOAs in the city go to: <http://eaglemountaincity.com/community/homeowners-associations>

Wildlife - Harmful algal blooms



Warmer temperatures often mean an increase in Harmful Algal Blooms in Utah's lakes and reservoirs.

The green, slimy substance, when in fresh water, is often the result of stagnant water combined with excess nutrients from the natural environment. It can also be caused by an increase in phosphorous from household cleaning products entering storm drains and other water runoff.

Harmful Algal Blooms can occur rapidly, and can change their location or direction based on local weather conditions. While Utah's recreational water opportunities are generally considered safe, there are actions that Eagle Mountain residents can take to keep themselves, their families and their pets safe from cyanobacteria.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality recommends the following to avoid potentially harmful health outcomes when enjoying Utah's recreational opportunities:

1. Don't swallow water when swimming.
2. Wash hands with clean water before eating or preparing food.
3. Clean fish well and discard the guts.
4. Keep animals away.

5. Recognize the [signs of a bloom](#), and when in doubt, stay out.

Harmful Algal Blooms will often change the color of the water -- hence its common name blue-green algae. The blooms are regularly associated with a fishy or septic odor. On occasion, this growth in freshwater algae can be associated with the death of plants and aquatic life.

The cyanobacteria can cause headaches, skin irritation, nausea and other gastrointestinal issues. Primarily, cyanobacteria are associated with harm caused to pets consuming water from the affected reservoir or lake. Some toxins can cause liver, neurological or respiratory problems.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health have developed a multi-tiered approach for Harmful Algal Blooms.

1. WARNING/HEALTH WATCH
 - a. Do not swim or water ski in affected area
 - b. Avoid areas of algae scum when boating
 - c. Keep animals away
 - d. Do not ingest the water
 - e. Clean fish well and discard guts
2. DANGER
 - Lake closed
 - a. Keep out of the water

These advisories use a variety of measures that primarily rely on cyanobacterial cell density and toxin concentrations. Eagle Mountain residents can check algae conditions at habs.utah.gov.

New business development



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Business development continues in Eagle Mountain. Follow along with our project's list each month to track the progress of development in the community.

Emergency prep - Wildfire season has arrived

During the 2020 wildfire season, Utah saw record-breaking numbers of human-caused fires. Of the 1,547 fires, 1,202 fires, or 78%, were determined to be human-caused. These fires accounted for nearly 100,000 of the 329,732 total acres burned during the season.

With extreme drought conditions and record high temperatures across the state, Utah is expected to see an above-average fire season again in 2021.

When it comes to fire season, weather is the main variable, and it cannot be controlled. What can be controlled is how people interact with the outdoors.

Some of the key tips to prevent fires are:

Know the situation: Check fire restrictions ahead of starting a campfire or doing any other activity that could spark a fire. It's also important to check for red flag warnings, which are issued when hot temperatures, strong winds and low relative humidity make for conditions that can make a fire spread faster.

Equipment: Be mindful of any surroundings and whether the equipment you are using for work, travel or recreation can start a fire. Never park on, or drive over, dry vegetation. Be sure no chains are dragging from vehicles.

Debris burning: Do not burn on windy days and make sure you have tools to suppress a fire or communication ready before burning something.

Campfires: Keep all fires to a manageable size. Never leave a fire unattended and have enough water available when extinguishing a campfire. If your campfire is too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.

Target shooting: Only shoot in areas where target shooting is allowed. Use an appropriate backdrop away from rocks or vegetation. Bring a shovel and water or a fire extinguisher with you when shooting outdoors.

Exploding targets: Never use exploding targets near dry vegetation. Exploding targets are currently banned on all Bureau of Land Management land and most other public lands.

Fireworks: Fireworks are prohibited on all public lands. Only launch fireworks on legal dates and in areas that permit fireworks to be launched. The detonation of fireworks has also been prohibited in Eagle Mountain City during the July 4 and July 24 (Pioneer Day) holiday celebrations.

Be Ready Eagle Mountain City will be hosting a wildfire prevention class on Thursday, July 8 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. The guest speaker will be Anthony Widdison, the Wildland Division Chief for Unified Fire Authority.

City jobs available



Eagle Mountain City is looking to fill several positions. Currently, the City is hiring for:

Building Inspector I or II

Neighborhood Improvement Officer

Wastewater Tech

Part-time Evening Custodian

Part-time Library Clerk

Part-time Morning Custodian

Planning Manager

Seasonal Recreation Aide

Seasonal Storm Water

Seasonal Streets Operator (2 positions)

Seasonal Water Meter Tech

Wastewater Collection System Operator

Water Meter Technician

Those interested in applying can find the right job for them and submit an application by clicking on this link: <https://emcity.applicantpro.com/jobs/>

Ballots will be mailed



Registered voters: watch the mail for your ballot! The Utah County Clerk's Office will be mailing ballots out to registered voters the week of July 19. Residents can go to vote.utah.gov to check their voter registration or to register to vote. The voter registration deadline is July 30 for the Primary Election.

Meet the Candidates Night will be held at Frontier Middle School on Thursday, July 15 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Petroglyphs - Preservation undertaken in Eagle Mountain



Southern Utah regularly receives accolades for its petroglyph sites and the efforts it makes around conservation and education. But Eagle Mountain has several petroglyph sites of its own.

Recently, Elizabeth Hora with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, assembled a team of residents, volunteers and experts to assess and catalogue some of Eagle Mountain's petroglyphs.

The Utah Division of State History, which oversees the SHPO, has catalogued more than 100,000 images around the state relevant to Utah's ancient history. The images and data, typically provided by archaeologists, are designed to better understand where these artifacts are located and allocate resources to better protect them.

Survey work conducted by the team in Eagle Mountain and previous assessments has concluded the local prehistoric rock imagery dates as old as 3-thousand years and continues up to the Fremont Culture period, which Hora says is as recent as 1300 A.D.

The Fremont Culture has been identified as inhabiting areas of Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada and Utah (as far south as Cedar City). The Fremont Culture is thought to have been hunter gatherers as opposed to the Ancestral Puebloans (Anasazi) to their south who relied heavily on farming for their resources.

Fremont peoples left behind distinct rock art on rocks and cliff walls, unique baskets and gray coiled pottery, according to the Utah Division of State History. Archaeologists believe the Fremont Culture began to disappear, or be absorbed into other cultures, around 1,000 years ago.

Some of the work surrounding Eagle Mountain's petroglyphs in the last few weeks involved assessing damage to the rock face. Spray paint was used to mark rocks around the site Hora's team was assessing.

Those responsible appear to have kept the graffiti limited to limestone rock near the petroglyphs instead of the sandstone in which the petroglyphs are situated. That, however, diminishes the overall appearance and incentivizes further damage to petroglyph locations, according to Hora. A contractor was employed to chemically treat the spray paint and remove the damage from the rock face. The team hopes the effort can better preserve the location for many more years.

Petroglyphs and ancient artifacts are common in Utah. Residents will occasionally locate arrow heads during hikes or other outdoor excursions. Others will come across shallow dish-shaped depressions in the ground. These pithouse bottoms are indicative of where a group was located during a given period.

Hora says the best thing locals can do is leave no trace if they come across petroglyphs or ancient artifacts. She encourages Eagle Mountain residents to only take pictures and only leave footprints at the sites in the area. If, however, residents would like to learn more, they are encouraged to contact the State Historic Preservation Office.

Upcoming events

- July 6 - [City Council Meeting](#)
- July 13 - [Planning Commission Meeting](#)
- July 14 - [Transportation Master Plan public meeting](#)
- July 20 - [City Council Meeting](#)
- July 27 - [Planning Commission Meeting](#)
- Eagle Mountain City Hall closed July 5 and 26

Contact us

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Visit us on the web at www.eaglemountaincity.com.

After-hours hotline for Water, Parks, Streets, Storm Water, and Sewer: (801) 789-5959

Can't find the answers you need on the website? Email info@emcity.org

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